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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Missing persons

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 49

For the existing text *substitute*

49. Cases of missing persons may involve conduct that amounts to criminal offences, while the commission of enforced disappearance is always a crime. In certain circumstances, such conduct may also amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity. States have an obligation, clearly established in international law, to investigate and prosecute such conduct. Moreover, criminal investigations and prosecutions can help victims to realize their right to the truth if the findings of such investigations and prosecutions are made available to interested parties. In order to enable effective investigation and prosecution, violations of applicable standards of international humanitarian and international human rights law should be criminalized under national criminal law, and necessary investigative and judicial mechanisms should be established.

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